

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1-5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having a bore and a longitudinal axis;

at least one drill guiding barrel having a passageway, the passageway having a predetermined trajectory, the predetermined trajectory being at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem, the at least one drill guiding barrel being attached to the outer stem and configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit, wherein the at least one drill guiding barrel is movably attached to the outer stem such that the fixed angle of the drill guiding barrel remains constant throughout movement of the drill guiding barrel about the outer stem at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem;

a rod at least partially disposed in the bore and releasably attached to both the outer stem and a bone plate; and

a release mechanism for securing the outer stem to the rod.

7. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, further comprising a handle member offset from the stem by an offset handle arm.

8. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 7, wherein the handle member pivots in relation to the offset handle arm.

9. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the release mechanism has a non-circular passage.
10. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the rod has a non-circular cross-section at one end.
11. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the rod is threaded at one end.
12. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, further comprising one or more ball detents located in the stem and a groove located on the rod, wherein the one or more ball detents and groove are used to releasably attach the stem to the rod.
13. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel pivots about a hinge on the stem.
14. (cancelled).
15. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has a plurality of drill insertion locations.
16. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has multiple insertion passageways at different angular orientations.

17. (previously presented) The surgical guide assembly of claim 16, wherein the insertion passageways have angular orientations of about 0° to about 10° toward the longitudinal axis of a bone plate and about 75° to about 90° upward or downward to the longitudinal axis of a bone plate.

18. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 6, wherein the drill guide barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

19. (cancelled).

20. (previously presented) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

- an outer stem having a bore and a longitudinal axis;

- at least one drill guiding barrel attached to the outer stem and configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit, wherein the at least one drill guiding barrel is movably attached to the outer stem and wherein the at least one drill guiding barrel is at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem;

- a rod at least partially disposed in the bore and releasably attached to both the outer stem and a bone plate;

- a release mechanism for securing the outer stem to the rod;

- a handle member offset from the stem by an offset handle arm, said handle member pivoting in relation to the offset handle arm; and

- a button cam, wherein the handle member and offset handle arm are releasably locked in

angular position by detents on said button cam being moved into or out of engagement with detent grooves in the handle member.

21-24. (cancelled).

25. (previously presented) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having a first longitudinal axis;

a drill guiding barrel configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit, the drill guiding barrel being pivotable about an axis of rotation disposed outside of the outer stem and substantially parallel to the first longitudinal axis; and

a rod releasably secured to the outer stem.

26. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 25, wherein the drill guiding barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

27. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 25, wherein the drill guiding barrel is attached to the outer stem by a hinge.

28. (currently amended) A surgical drill guide assembly comprising:

an outer stem having an exterior surface and a first longitudinal axis;

a drill guiding barrel having a passageway, the passageway having a predetermined trajectory, the predetermined trajectory being at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem, the drill guiding barrel being pivotably attached to the outer stem at the exterior surface such that the fixed angle of the drill guiding barrel remains constant throughout pivoting

of the drill guiding barrel about the outer stem such that the drill guiding barrel can pivot while maintaining a substantially fixed angle with respect to the outer stem, and wherein the drill guiding barrel is configured to receive and guide a surgical drill bit; and
a rod releasably secured to the outer stem.

29. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 28, wherein the drill guiding barrel has a depth stop for preventing a drill bit from exceeding a pre-determined depth.

30. (previously presented) The surgical drill guide assembly of claim 28, wherein the drill guiding barrel is attached to the outer stem by a hinge.